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PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF PRODUCTION OF LUMBER, LATH, AND SHINGLES
IN CALIFORNIA, 1942

In cooperation with the Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce, and the War Production Board, the Forest Service presents herewith its annual preliminary statement of lumber production in California and Nevada. Since this statement is based upon incomplete returns it will differ somewhat from subsequent final production statistics to be compiled by the Bureau of the Census.

The estimate of 1942 production shows that the lumber industry in California, despite adverse effects of manpower and equipment shortages and bad weather in the spring of 1942, responded to the unprecedented wartime demand for lumber by producing only a fraction less than was sawed in the all-time peak year of 1941.

The production estimated in tables 1, 2, and 3 is based upon reports from 207 of an estimated total of 239 active sawmills in the California pine region and on 59 of an estimated total of 75 active mills in the redwood region. The coverage was such that in the pine region the sampling error of estimated total production, expressed in percentage and based upon \pm one standard error, was 0.2, while the corresponding error in the redwood region was 0.5.

For the entire State and all species, the estimated production of 2,322,170 M feet b.m. (table 1) is only 0.4 percent less than total State-wide production in 1941. With the exception of redwood, Douglas fir, and white fir there was a decrease in the cut of all species ranging from a 2.7 percent decline in incense cedar to a 19.3 percent decline in Sitka spruce. The most significant decreases were the 3.7 percent decline in ponderosa pine and the 12.6 percent decline in sugar pine. Although the production of redwood rose 1.1 percent from 1941, the most outstanding increases were a rise of 40 million feet in the cut of Douglas fir, equivalent to a 16.2 percent increase, and a rise of 30 million feet in production of white fir, equivalent to a 30.1 percent increase. The estimated production of lath and shingles declined 5.2 percent and 35.7 percent, respectively. Lumber stocks dropped from 846,854 M feet b.m. on December 31, 1941, to 616,441

M feet b.m. on December 31, 1942, or a decrease of 27.2 percent. It is estimated that there were 103 idle sawmills in the State in 1942, most of which were of low potential output.

In the pine region the estimated lumber production in 1942 was 1,730,931 M feet b.m. (table 2), or approximately 3 percent below the output in 1941. There were declines in the output of ponderosa pine, sugar pine, incense cedar, and big tree, but increases in the production of Douglas fir and white fir. The sampling error for species production was less than 2 percent for all species except incense cedar and big tree. Lumber stocks declined about 140 million feet in 1942. The 44 mills which cut more than 10 million feet apiece produced 86.8 percent of the total lumber sawed in the region, whereas the 131 mills producing less than 1 million feet each cut only 2.1 percent of the regional production.

In the redwood region the estimated 1942 lumber production of 591,239 M feet b.m. (table 3) was approximately 9 percent greater than the 1941 output. The most outstanding development was the increase of roughly 30 million feet in the production of Douglas fir. The cut of redwood rose about 5 million feet, and the production of white fir rose slightly. Other species showed decreases. The sampling error was 0.7 percent for redwood and 2.4 percent for Douglas fir. Lumber stocks decreased about 85 million feet. The 9 mills cutting more than 10 million feet apiece produced 88 percent of the regional cut, whereas the 38 mills cutting less than 1 million feet each produced 2.3 percent of the regional cut.

Table 1.- Production of lumber, by kind of wood, and of lath and shingles
California and Nevada 1/, 1941 and 1942

Species	Lumber production (M feet, b.m.)				Change in 1942 from 1941			
	1941	Quantity	Percent	1942 (estimate)	Quantity	Percent	Percent	Percent
Mills sawing 50 M feet or more								
Ponderosa pine	1,177,513	50.5		1,133,565	48.8		-	3.7
Redwood 2/	455,449	19.5		460,631	19.8		+	1.1
Sugar pine	299,378	12.8		261,661	11.3		-	12.6
Douglas fir	248,272	10.7		288,596	12.4		+	16.2
White fir	100,965	4.3		131,331	5.7		+	30.1
Incense cedar	36,787	1.6		35,791	1.5		-	2.7
Port Orford cedar	6,195	0.3		5,132	0.2		-	17.2
Sitka spruce	4,582	0.2		3,696	0.2		-	19.3
Alder	1,301	0.1		1,176	0.1		-	9.6
Other species 3/	598	0.04		0	0.0		-	100.0
Mills sawing less than 50 M feet								
All species	853	0.04		591	0.04		-	30.7
Total								
All species, all mills	2,331,893	100.0		2,322,170	100.0		-	0.4
Lath (thousands)	17,175			16,280			-	5.2
Shingles (squares) 4/	100,937			64,933			-	35.7
Stocks of lumber, Dec. 31	846,854			616,441			-	27.2

1/ Combined to avoid disclosing output of individual establishments.

2/ Includes big tree (*Sequoia gigantea*) in pine region.

3/ Hemlock, western red cedar, oak.

4/ Includes data for shakes reported as such.



